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Date:

*January 2, 2002*

By:

*Kelli J. Endreson*

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

RE APPLICATION OF:

Timothy J. Reardon *et al.*

SERIAL NO.: 09/893,315

FILED: June 26, 2001

FOR: SEMICONDUCTOR PROCESSING  
APPARATUS

EXAMINER:

ART UNIT: 1734

CONFIRMATION NO.: 2812

ATTY DOCKET NO.: 29195-8161US

**Information Disclosure Statement Within Three Months of  
Application Filing or Before First Action – 37 CFR 1.97(b)**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

1. Timing of Submission

This information disclosure is being filed within three months of the filing date of this application or date of entry into the national stage of an international application or before the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits, whichever occurs last [37 CFR 1.97(b)]. The references listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 (modified) may be material to the examination of this application; the Examiner is requested to make them of record in the application.

2. Cited Information

☒ Copies of the following references are enclosed:

- ☐ All cited references
- ☒ References not marked by asterisks
- ☐ The following:

☒ Copies of the following references can be found in parent applications Serial No. 09/575,965 filed May 23, 2000; Serial No. 08/883,393 filed June 26, 1997 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,066,575); Serial No. 08/422,485 filed April 12, 1995 (now U.S. Patent No. 5,658,387); Serial No. 07/855,767 filed March 18, 1992 (now U.S. Patent No. 5,431,421); Serial No. 07/665,942 filed March 6, 1991 (now U.S.

Patent No. 5,235,995); and Serial No. 07/526,243 (now U.S. Patent 5,168,887) priority to each of which is claimed under 35 USC §120:

- ☐ All cited references
- ☒ References marked by asterisks
- ☐ The following:

- ☒ The following references are not in English. For each such reference, the undersigned has enclosed (i) a translation of the reference; (ii) a copy of a communication from a foreign patent office or International Searching Authority citing the reference, (iii) a copy of a reference which appears to be an English-language counterpart, or (iv) an English-language abstract for the reference prepared by a third party. Applicant has not verified that the translation, English-language counterpart or third-party abstract is an accurate representation of the teachings of the non-English reference, though, and reserves the right to demonstrate otherwise.

- ☐ All cited references
- ☒ References marked by ampersands
- ☐ The following:

3. Effect of Information Disclosure Statement (37 CFR 1.97(h))

This Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that: (i) a search has been made; (ii) additional information material to the examination of this application does not exist; (iii) the information, protocols, results and the like reported by third parties are accurate or enabling; or (iv) the cited information is, or is considered to be, material to patentability. In addition, applicant does not admit that any enclosed item of information constitutes prior art to the subject invention and specifically reserves the right to demonstrate that any such reference is not prior art.

4. Fee Payment


No fees are believed due. However, should the Commissioner determine that fees are due in order for this Information Disclosure Statement to be considered, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0665.

5. Patent Term Adjustment (37 CFR 1.704(d))

- ☐ The undersigned states that each item of information submitted herewith was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and that this communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of this statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.704(d).

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Respectfully submitted,



Edward S. Hotchkiss  
Registration No. 33,904

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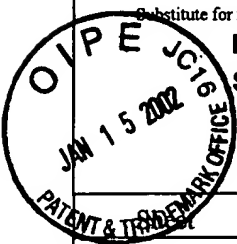
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**Correspondence Address:**

Customer No. 25096

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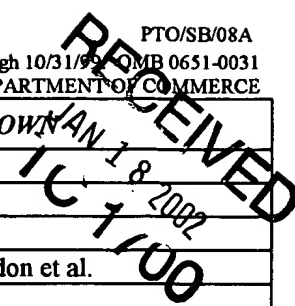
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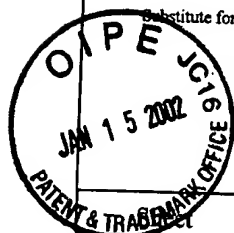
### U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIALS*	Cite No.	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		NUMBER	Kind Code (if known)			
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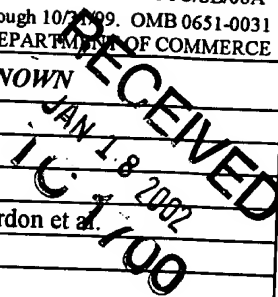
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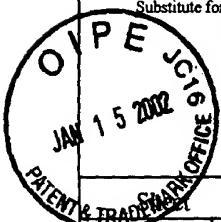
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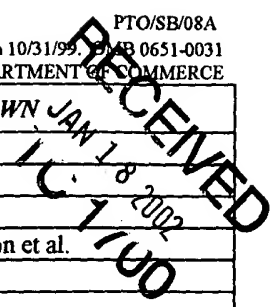
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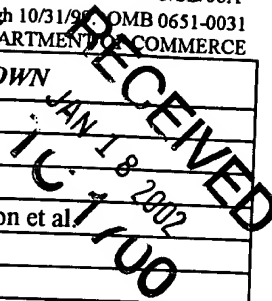
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*	5,168,886			Thompson et al.	12/8/92
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*	5,224,503			Thompson et al.	7/6/93
*	5,232,328			Owczarz et al.	8/3/93
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*	5,358,740			Bornside et al.	10/25/94
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*	5,429,912			Neoh	7/4/95
*	5,431,421			Thompson et al.	7/11/95

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**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

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		Office	Number	Kind Code (if known)				
	*	JPO	JP1-204427		Hitachi Ltd.	8/17/89		
	*	JPO	JP1-304732		Kubota Corp.	11/17/98		
	*	JPO	JP231330		Seiichirou.Sougou	11/16/85		
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	*	JPO	JP45-40458			12/70		
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	*	JPO	JP61-148820		Hitachi Ltd.	7/7/86		

**OTHER PRIOR ART-NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS**

*EXAMINER INITIALS*	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume/issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T
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	*	Van der Heide, P.A. M., et al., "Etching of Thin SiO <sub>2</sub> Layers Using Wet HF Gas", J. Vac. Sci. Technol., A7(3), pp. 1719-1723, (May/Jun. 1989).	
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	6	of	6
	*	"A Mechanism of Particle Generation and a Method to Suppress Particles in Vapor HF/H <sub>2</sub> O System" in Shigeo Onishi, et al., Extended abstracts of the 22 <sup>nd</sup> (1990 International) Conference on Solid State Devices and Materials, Sendai, 1990, pp. 1127-1139.	
	*	IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin Vol. 19, No. 7, p. 2574, Dec. 1976 "Process for Reducing Gold or Copper Wafer Contamination During Oxide Removal" by M. Briska, et al.	
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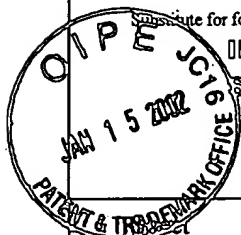
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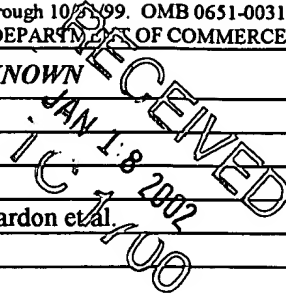


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		4,259,166		Whitehurst	3/31/81	
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Application Number 09/893,315

Confirmation Number 2812

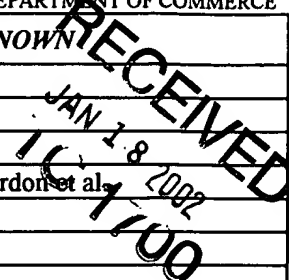
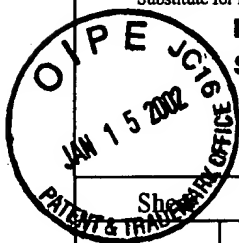
Filing Date 06/26/2001

First Named Inventor Timothy J. Reardon et al.

Group Art Unit 1734

Examiner Name

Attorney Docket No. 29195.8161US



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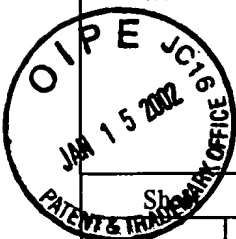
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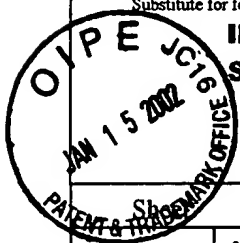
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